

## **Name Approvals for Physical Therapy Professional Service Corporations**

A "professional corporation" is one organized for the purpose of rendering a professional service, i.e. "a service that may lawfully be rendered only by a person licensed or otherwise authorized by a licensing unit in the State to render the service...." Md. Code Ann., Corps. & Ass'ns, § 5-101(g)(1) (2007 Repl. Vol.). Effective October 1, 2007, this definition has been expanded to include services provided by a physical therapist. § 5-101(g)(2). Thus, a corporation of physical therapists may elect to be a professional corporation provided the corporation complies with the applicable provisions of the law. § 5-112.

The corporate name of a professional corporation must include (1) the word "chartered"; (2) the abbreviation "chtd."; (3) the words "professional association"; (3) the abbreviation "P.A."; (4) the words "professional corporation"; *or* (5) the abbreviation "P.C.". § 1-501(f). The name of a professional corporation may not use any other word, abbreviation, affix, or prefix that indicates it is a corporation. § 1-503(c). The name must also meet the requirements set forth in §§ 1-504 and 1- 505.

Further, § 5-107(B) requires the name of a Maryland professional corporation (or a foreign professional corporation authorized to transact business in the State) to contain the surname of one or more stockholders of the corporation unless the Board of Physical Therapy Examiners (the "Board") and Maryland APTA approves the name and issues a certificate for its use. *In addition*, the Board's certificate must be attached to the articles of incorporation document in which the name is adopted. § 5-107(B)(3). Thus, for example, if Jane Doe, P.T. elects to incorporate her professional physical therapy practice with the name "USA Physical Therapy," she must submit the name for approval and a certificate. However, if she chooses the name "Doe Physical Therapy, P.C.," she does not need to submit the name for Board and Maryland APTA approval.

In order to obtain a certificate of authorization for use of a corporate name, the physical therapist must file an application with the Board which contains the name to be adopted by the corporation and the reasons for adopting the name. § 5-107(B)(3)(a). In determining the appropriateness of the proposed corporate name, the Board and Maryland APTA will consider the established ethical standards, rules and regulations of the profession. § 5-107(B)(3)(c)(2). To obtain an application, please contact the Board's staff at (410) 764-4752.